## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application, as amended. Claims 18-22 and 30-51 have been canceled. Claims 1-17, 23, 24, 28 and 29 have been amended. Claims 52-56 are new.

Claims 1-15, 18-20, 23-41, 44-47, and 50-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. 6,493,735 of Kumhyr ("Kumhyr") in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,812,122 of Ng ("Ng"). Claims 16, 17, 21, 22, 42, 43, 48 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumhyr and Ng and further in view of US Patent no. 5,857,201 of Wright.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. None of the amendments to the claims are made in response to the rejections, or to comply with any requirement of patentability, as no amendment was necessary. The claims as originally filed were patentable over the cited art, as will be seen from the following discussion. The amendments are made only to place the claims in what Applicant considers to be better form to protect the invention.

Claim 1, in its original form, recited:

1. A method comprising :
  receiving a line of text, the line of text having a set of ordered characters;
    flipping the characters of the line of text **about a display axis**;
    identifying a set of runs of foreign characters in the line of text; and
    **flipping the characters of the runs** of the set of runs of foreign characters **within each run** of foreign characters.
(Emphasis added.)

The Office acknowledges that Kumhyr fails to disclose flipping characters around a particular axis. However, the Examiner contends that Ng discloses such a feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Ng does discuss the ability to transform (swap) text segments with implied directional meaning (e.g., col. 5, lines 53-55). However, unlike original claim 1, Ng does not disclose or suggest that this can be done by <u>flipping</u> the characters of the line of text <u>about a display axis</u>, or <u>flipping</u> the characters of a run of foreign characters <u>within the run of foreign characters</u>. Flipping text about an axis is <u>not</u> the only possible way to swap its directionality (left-to-right vs. right-to-left), and Ng does not disclose any specific manner in which the directionality of text is swapped. As an alternative, the direction of a set of characters might be swapped by <u>reordering</u> the sequence in which the characters are <u>rendered</u> (for example, the string "abcde" can be swapped so that it appears on a display as "edcba" by displaying the individual characters in the string "abcde" in reverse order, i.e., by displaying "e", then "d", then "c", then "b", then "a" from left to right; that would be similar to the approach disclosed in Kumhyr (see col. 2, line 56 to col. 2, line 14)). That is not the same as <u>flipping</u> the characters <u>about</u> <u>an axis</u>, and particularly not the same as flipping the characters about a <u>display axis</u>, as recited in original claim 1.

Ng does not disclose or suggest <u>flipping</u> characters <u>about an axis</u>, and particularly not flipping characters about a <u>display axis</u>, nor does Kumhyr.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising :

receiving a line of text, the line of text having a set of ordered characters;

flipping the characters of the line of text **about a display axis**;

identifying in the line of text a group of adjacent characters that share a characteristic not shared by at least one other character in the line of text; and

flipping the characters of the group of adjacent characters **about a vertical axis which passes through the group of adjacent characters**. (Emphasis added.)

For reasons similar to those discussed above, claim 1 as amended is also patentable over the cited art.

Further, in contrast with amended claim 1, neither Kumhyr nor Ng discloses or suggests, in addition to flipping the characters of the line of text about a display axis, also flipping the characters of a group of adjacent characters that share a characteristic not shared by at least one other character in the line of text (e.g., a "run" of foreign characters) about a vertical axis which passes through the group of adjacent characters.

In addition, in contrast with new dependent claim 52, neither Kumhyr nor Ng discloses or suggests flipping the characters of the line of text about a center vertical axis of a display on which the line of text is to be displayed.

Each of the remaining independent claims recites one or more of the limitations discussed above, or substantially similar limitation(s), and is therefore patentable over the cited art for similar reasons.
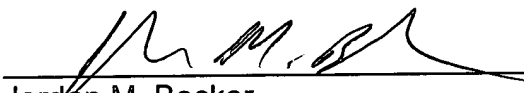
For the foregoing reasons, therefore, all pending claims are patentable over the cited art. Allowance of all claims is therefore respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jordan M. Becker at (408) 720-8300.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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